

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-12 SCS-06 CA-01 OPR-02 A-01
CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00
INRE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03 PA-01 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 /068 W

-----001137 230911Z /15

O 230933Z DEC 77

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6676

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 7006

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PDIP, ET, US, IT, GW, FR, KE, SZ, NL, UK, CA

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE PROTECTING POWER

1. WE HAVE BEEN GIVING CONSIDERABLE THOUGHT OVERNIGHT
TO POSSIBLE PROTECTING POWER SHOULD EPMG DECIDE TO
BREAK RELATIONS ENTIRELY. FOLLOWING ARE OUR RECOMMENDA-
TIONS IN DESCENDING ORDER BOTH OF FEASIBILITY AND OF
PROTECTION OF US INTERESTS, AT LEAST FROM ADDIS
PERSPECTIVE.

A. ITALY. EPMG RELATIONS WITH ITALY SEEM TO BE IN-
PROVING NOTABLY WITH INVITATION EXTENDED TO HIGH LEVEL
DELEGATION TO VISIT ETHIOPIA ASAP AFTER NEW YEAR. ITALIAN
EMBASSY IS ONE OF LARGEST HERE AND ITALIANS
KNOW THEIR WAY AROUND AND IN AND OUT ADDIS AS WELL AS
ANY WESTERNERS. THEY COULD PRESUMABLY ALSO HIRE LOCAL
ITALIANS IF NECESSARY TO TAKE ON INCREASED CUSTODIAL
DUTIES. THEY ARE CONSIDERED ONLY "MINOR IMPERIALISTS."
IN ADDITION, ITALIAN EMBASSY SEES THAT IT CAN NEVER
ITSELF LEAD TO BREAK WITH EPMG BECAUSE OF HOSTAGE
ITALIAN POPULATION, AND IT IS LIKELY TO STAY AROUND
AS LONG AS ANY WESTERNERS.

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B. FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY. FRG-EPMG RELATIONS
ARE AS GOOD AS ANY WITH WESTERN COUNTRIES, PROBABLY
THE BEST. GERMAN STAFF IS RELATIVELY SMALL BUT COULD
BE EXPECTED TO DO JOB MORE EFFICIENTLY THAN ANY OTHERS.
IT SEEMS ALMOST TOSS-UP BETWEEN ITALY AND FRG.

C. FRANCE. FRENCH EMBASSY HAS RELATIVELY LARGE STAFF,

BUT GOF IS SO CAREFUL TO STAY ALOOF OF IDENTIFICATION
WITH USG THAT IT MIGHT BE RELUCTANT TO TAKE ON JOB.
WE ARE NOT AWARE OF FRENCH EXPERIENCE IN THIS FIELD
WHICH GERMANS AND ITALIANS HAVE.

D. KENYA. KENYA IS EXCELLENT FRIEND OF BOTH EPMG
AND US. STAFF IS RELATIVELY LARGE AND WE BELIEVE THE
MOST EFFICIENT OF AFRICAN EMBASSIES. WE BELIEVE
IT WOULD BE PRECEDENT SETTING TO HAVE AFRICAN COUNTRY
REPRESENT US AND MIGHT SERVE OUR CONTINENTAL-WIDE
INTERESTS.

E. SWEDEN. SWEDISH EMBASSY IS AS WELL STAFFED AND
EFFICIENT AS ANY MEDIUM SIZE EMBASSY IN ADDIS. THERE
HAS BEEN AND REMAINS ENORMOUS GOOD WILL BETWEEN
PRESENT SWEDISH AMBASSADOR AND US ACOMS, BUT WE ARE
NOT AWARE OF STAUNCHLY NEUTRALIST SWEDEN EVER TAKING
ON THIS TASK.

F. CANADA. THE STAFF IS TOO SMALL TO HANDLE JOB
BUT IT COULD PRESUMABLY BRING IN EXTRA PERSONNEL
IF WE PAID THE BILL.

G. NETHERLANDS. THE STAFF IS TOO SMALL TO HANDLE
JOB BUT IT COULD PRESUMABLY BRING IN EXTRA PERSONNEL
IF WE PAID THE BILL.
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H. UK. HAVING TURNED DOWN THEIR SUGGESTION THAT WE
STAND BY AS POTENTIAL PROTECTING POWER FOR THEM, IT
IS UNLIKELY THAT THEY WOULD LOOK FAVORABLY UPON OUR
REQUEST ALTHOUGH RELATIONS BETWEEN TWO EMBASSIES ARE
EXCELLENT.

I. SWITZERLAND. STAFF IS MUCH TOO SMALL TO HANDLE
JOB AND PRESENT AMBASSADOR IS FRIGHTENED FOR HIS
OWN SAFETY (HAVING EVACUATED FAMILY) AND SHOWS NO
NATURAL RAPPORT WITH ETHIOPIANS. IF AMBASSADOR HAD
CHOICE HE WOULD CLOSE SWISS EMBASSY ENTIRELY.

2. WE HAVE, OF COURSE, NOT INFORMED ANY OF THESE
EMBASSIES THAT WE HAVE LEARNED OF A THREAT TO BREAK
OR TO REDUCE RELATIONS.

3. ACTION REQUEST: GUIDANCE.
MATHERON

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 23-Dec-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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